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Message Text

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13
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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---------- 105150
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2533
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN
CINCUSNAVEUR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOALSE/6 ATAF IZMIR
DIA WASHDC DS-3C

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR
SUBJECT: TURKISH MANEUVERS IN THE AEGEAN

REF: ANKARA 1387 DTG 210737Z FEB 76

1. THE TURKISH EXERCISES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE
AEGEAN FEBRUARY 25 AND 26 CONTINUED AS A SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC
COMMENT BY TURKISH OFFICIALS OVER THE FEBRUARY 21-22 233(END.
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AIR FORCE COMMANDER GENERAL ALPKAYA WAS ASKED ABOUTH THE AEGEAN

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MANEUVERS DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE HE HELD CONCERNING THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INCIDENT BECAUSE BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY WOULD BE CONDUCTING MANEUVERS AT THE SAME TIME, ALPKAYA SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES COULD CARRY OUT EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND THERE WAS NO NEED FOR GREECE TO CREATE AN INCIDENT.

2. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL FEBRUARY 21 ECHOED COMMENTS MADE BY PRIMIN DEMIREL THE PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL). CAGLAYANGIL SAID THAT GREECE HAD NO RIGHT TO OBJECT TO ANY EXERCISES WHICH MIGHT BE HELD IN THE AEGEAN OUTSIDE OF THE SIX-MILE LIMIT. HE SAID TURKEY DID NOT ACCEPT THE TEN-MILE AIR SPACE LIMIT CLAIMED BY THE GREEKS AND HAD AT VARIOUS TIMES INFORMED GREECE AND APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF ITS NON-ACCEPTANCE. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT "THIS IS NEITHER THE FIRST NOR LAST EXERCISES THE TURKISH,ARMED FORCE WILL

HOLD IN THE AEGEAN." CAGLAYANGIL ENDED ON A CONCILIATORY NOTE BY POINTING OUT THAT GREECE OFTEN CONDUCTED EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN AND SAYING THAT HE VIEWED THE AEGEAN AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES FROM WHICH EACH SHOULD BENEFIT EQUALLY.

3. TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) RADIO NEWS THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 22 CARRIED THE PURPORTED TEXT OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE CONCERNING THE SCHEDULED TURKISH EXERCISES. ACCORDING TO THE TRT VERSION, THE GREEK ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT THE TURKISH EXERCISES DID NOT CREATE AN ABNORMAL SITUATION, THAT PREVIOUS TURKISH EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN HAD NOT CREATED PROBLEMS, THAT THE GOT HAD INFORMED THE GOG OF THE EXECISES, AND THAT THE GOG HAD NOT EXPRESSED ANY OPPOSITION. TURKISH PRESS FEB. 23 ALSO CARRIES THE GREEK STATEMENT.

4. HURRIYET FEBRUARY 23 CARRIES A REPORT THAT THE TURKISH AEGEAN ARMY HEADQUARTERED IN IZMIR HAS BEEN PUT ON ALERT FOR THE SCHEDULED EXERCISES.

5. COMMENT: THE GREEK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT AS REPORTED OVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRT SHOULD HAVE A SUBSTATIAL CALMING EFFECT. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HURRIYET STORY FEBRUARY 23, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF ANY TURKISH EXPECTATION OR ANTICIPATION THAT THE SCHEDULED EXERCISES MIGHT PROVOKE GREEK MILITARY REACTION. THE STORY IS NO LONGER HEADLINE NEWS HERE.
MACOMBER

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